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26 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 26 October 1965

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[REDACTED]

R. J. Smith reported on a request placed on the Agency yesterday by Secretary McNamara, through [REDACTED] for a detailed assessment of civilian casualties in North Vietnam. The Secretary had hoped for an answer within a day or two. It appears that a thorough job would require at least six weeks. It was agreed that [REDACTED] would be asked to acquaint the Secretary with the size and scope of this job and to make it clear that we do not expect to come up with firm information.

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DD/S reported an example of the Agency's Out-Placement Program.

de Silva noted that his staff was working with OTR and FE to arrange a briefing course for the growing numbers of Agency people being assigned to Saigon.

At DCI inquiry, de Silva and DD/P discussed the status of plans for intensified counterintelligence work at the Saigon Station. [REDACTED] is expected to leave for Saigon at the end of the week. DCI noted the importance of this program and the need to proceed with deliberate speed.

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- 2 -

de Silva reported that he will be briefing Marine Corps Commandant General Greene, and other Marine General Officers, on the Political Action Team operations in Vietnam. He will emphasize the intelligence collection rationale behind these operations.

Houston reported that Representative Rivers is expected in Washington today. Arrangements are being made for a DCI meeting with him, probably 29 October.

Houston noted that R. J. Smith and Warner would meet to brief Senator Byrd of West Virginia today.

Houston and Executive Director reported on letters being drafted for DCI signature to go to Senator Russell today, explaining the status and immediate outlook for the CIA Reserve. These letters are intended to bring the record up to date in the light of Russell's requirement that his committee be kept au courant on Reserve releases and in the light of his hope that there would be no such releases between now and the reconvening of Congress.

Houston referred to Senator Stephen Young's concern about the widows of the Birmingham fliers. It was agreed that Warner would meet with the Senator to discuss this. DCI said he would provide guidance to Warner for this meeting.

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- 3 -

DD/S&T noted a letter to the DCI from the CNO concerning the Agency's recent cruise missile study. No further action is required.

DD/S&T and the DCI reported on the briefings they attended yesterday at Andrews Air Force Base concerning U. S. Air Force R&D programs. (See Action 7)

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Executive Director read a letter from the Chairman, JCS, to DCI which noted dissatisfaction with intelligence collection in North Vietnam. de Silva has the action in preparing a response. He was advised to secure inputs from all parts of the Agency and to frame the answer carefully. It was also agreed that the Chairman's letter would be tabled at this week's USIB meeting.

The DCI noted that he would be meeting with Representative Mahon next week.

ACTIONS:

1. After collection of comments and making revisions as appropriate, Kent is to provide DCI, by 2:00 p.m. today, with a final version of the memo on the [ ] plan. DCI intends to circulate this memo under a covering note with his signature to the Secretaries of State and Defense, Vaughn, Bundy, and the President.

2. Bross is requested to inform Clark Clifford, by letter, of the briefings given to Gordon Gray. (D/DCI/NIPE -- 2 November)

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- 4 -

3. At DCI's request, Executive Director said he would arrange for preparation of an Agency Notice on the importance of stressing intelligence collection as a primary function in Agency political action programs. DCI said he wants all Agency supervisors to be thus informed.

4. DCI directed Warner to show the cable from Ambassador Porter about coordination of Agency operations in Vietnam to all Congressional members of our subcommittees. (OGC: a status report to DCI by 3 November)

5. Noting the fact that TASS and other Communist news services have replayed quotations by Senator Young which were critical of CIA, DDCI asked Warner to show these replays to Senator Young. (OGC) DCI asked that a selection of these Communist news items be sent to Presidential Assistant Moyers and to Leonard Marks of USIA. (DD/I -- in the course of the day)

6. To improve the DCI's awareness of briefings given to the PFIAB, Bross is requested to consider taking this matter up with Clifford and Vance. To prepare for a session with Clifford, Bross is to keep a record of items discussed in the field during Clifford's current trip; this should be ready for discussions upon Clifford's return. Discussions with Vance can center around the need to improve relationships between CIA and DOD so that each agency can avoid undercutting the other in briefings of the PFIAB. (D/DCI/NIPE)

7. Bross is requested to prepare a letter for DCI signature to the Secretary of Defense, citing the benefits that would accrue to the Agency and the intelligence community in being informed systematically -- perhaps annually -- of the DOD assessment of the kinds of problems confronting the opposition's defense establishments. This would permit us to sharpen and gear our estimative procedures. The letter should include a reference to the continuing need to know of DOD R&D capabilities and objectives as a yardstick in keeping abreast of opposition developments. (D/DCI/NIPE -- 15 November)

/s/

L. K. White

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